A STITCH IN TIME

MARCH 1, 1947

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1. SOUND: CASH REGISTER RINGS TWICE . . . MONEY IN TILL

2. JOHN: It's CONSUMER TIME

3. SOUND: CASH REGISTER . . . CLOSE DRAWER

4. ANNCR: During the next fifteen minutes, the National Broadcasting Company and its affiliated independent stations make their facilities available for the presentation of CONSUMER TIME by the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Today's story is called . . . "A Stitch in Time". You've guessed it . . . a story about mending your clothes . . . linens . . . and other household items . . . to make them last longer. We've a couple of surprises in store today in the way of a guest and a free booklet . . . but that comes later. First, you might like to know how we decided to choose this particular

(ANNCR: CONT'D) subject for today's program. It all started back a couple of days ago when your inquiring consumers, Mrs. Freyman and Johnny, put their heads together to choose a subject.

5. MUSIC: GAY BRIDGE

6. FREYMAN: Mow let's see, Johnny . . . we want something timely for Saturday's CONSUMER TIME program.

7. JOHN: Timely . . . timely . . . how about "how to repair your watch at home". And if you have any pieces left over . . . send them in to us.My watch seems to need some outside help.

8. FREYMAN: Now be serious. (MUSING) We should talk about different ways to make a dollar go further.

9. JOHN: We did a program on budgets.

10. FREYMAN: I know . . . and we've talked about choosing good house dresses for your money.

11. JOHN: How about a program on gardening? I think I saw a robin this morning. If the robins come . . . can spring be far behind?

12. FREYMAN: Let's hope not. But I think we ought to wait a little while for our garden program. Now let's see . . . what information would I like to have to help me save money today . . . say, I know.

13. JOHN: What?

14. FREYMAN: I'd like to know how to make things last longer . . . especially clothes . . . and sheets . . . and pillow cases . . . and table cloths . . . and blankets . . . and . . .

15. JOHN: Wait a minute . . . wait a minute, Mrs. Freyman. Don't forget we only have a fifteen minute program.

16. FREYMAN: I'd like to know how to mend them . . . nothing fancy . . . but just to make them last longer. And I think other women would like to know that too. A tiny hole or a tear can make a garment or household article practically useless. But a well-done mend can make it like new again.

17. JOHN: A stitch in time.

18. FREYMAN: That's it. And I know just the people to talk to about the matter . . . the clothing specialists at the Bureau of Human Nutrition and Home Economics. Remember Miss Scott, Johnny?

19. JOHN: Sure . . . she was our guest on CONSUMER TIME when we did the program on make-overs from leather, fur and felt . . . back in October.

20. FREYMAN: Well, I'm going to telephone her. Maybe she can recommend some one we can go out and see right now.

21. SOUND: TELEPHONE DIAL SIX TIMES

22. JOHN: Today?

23. FREYMAN: Right now . .. Sh! Hello, Miss Scott, please . . . (PAUSE) Hello, Miss Scott? This is Mrs. Freyman of the CONSUMER TIME program. (PAUSE) I'm fine, thank you, how are you? That's good. Miss Scott . . . Johnny and I would like to do a CONSUMER TIME program on making clothes and linens and stuff last longer by taking a stitch in time. Is there some one in your division we could come out and see? (PAUSE) Good . . . please tell her we'll hop a bus right away and see her in about half an hour. Good-bye.

24. MUSIC: BRIDGE

25. SOUND: BUS MOTOR IN BACKGROUND

26. FREYMAN: Johnny - how long does this bus ride take?

27. JOHN: We should be there soon. Say, Mrs. Freyman, who are we going to see out at the Department of Agriculture anyhow?

28. FREYMAN: Miss Shirley Johnstone she's a clothing specialist, Johnny. And in case I forget, will you remind me to ask her how to fix up a worn blanket binding?

29. JOHN: Check. Incidentally, have you ever heard of a "Crippled clothes clinic"?

30. FREYMAN: A what?

31. JOHN: Crippled clothes clinic. I heard a couple of women talking about it on the bus the other day. That's all I heard of the conversation . . . and I wondered what it was.

32. FREYMAN: Well, I guess they were talking about a group of women getting together to learn how to take care of their clothes. There are lots of clothing workshops all over the country . . . sometimes the women share the same sewing machines and other tools.

33. JOHN: Sounds like a plain old-fashioned sewing circle to me.

34. FREYMAN: I wouldn't call them old-fashioned. From what I've heard the home demonstration clubs go about clothing repairs very scientifically. One woman told me that she thought there wasn't anything new to learn about mending. But she got very enthusiastic over the new ideas and quick method of mending that the State clothing specialists showed her. And some of the group leaders work out good ideas of their own.

35. SOUND: BUS COMING TO HALT

36. JOHN: Okay . . . Then they're sewing circles. . . brought up to date. Say, Mrs. Freyman ... looks like this is our stop. Come on.

37. FREYMAN: I'm right behind you . . . and remind me to find out about quick mending methods.

38. MUSIC: BRIDGE

39. FREYMAN: I'm glad you could see us today, Miss Johnstone. Can you give us some good advice about mending to pass along to our CONSUMER TIME listeners?

40. JOHNSTONE: I can give you a few tips, Mrs. Freyman. One is to check all ready-mades as soon as you get them home. If you strengthen any weak spots with a few stitches or a reinforcement before using the article, you can save a bigger mending job later on. That's preventive medicine.

41. JOHN: A stitch in time . . . in other words.

42. JOHNSTONE: Exactly. Another good idea is to look over your clothing, bedding, towels, and linens regularly with an eye to needed mending. If you catch breaks before they grow, you'll cut down a lot of mending time. The damaged places can be mended more easily and will show less.

43. JOHN: Big oaks from little acorns grow . . . and big tears from little rips.

44. FREYMAN: Those are a little unconnected . . . but you've got the idea, Johnny.

45. JOHN: I feel like quoting proverbs today . . . but I can't keep saying "A stitch in time saves nine" . . . I can't keep saying that all the time.

46. JOHNSTONE: Well, that's the best advice to give on this subject, Johnny. Once you've found a place that needs mending, mend it before the article is worn or used again.

47. FREYMAN: Miss Johnstone ... how about this business of strengthening ready-made clothes? I always mean to ... but somehow. . .

48. JOHN: Maybe you should have made some new year's resolutions along those lines.

49. FREYMAN: Maybe I should.

50. JOHNSTONE: If you don't think it's too late, Mrs. Freyman, you might resolve to check your ready-made clothes and household textiles before you use them. For instance . . . restitch any broken, or crooked stitching.

51. FREYMAN: That's a good idea . . . especially for the seams.

52. JOHNSTONE: Yes . . . and a good way to keep unfinished seams from fraying and stretching is to stitch them twice.

53. JOHN: Two stitches in time.

54. JOHNSTONE: One row of stitching about one-eighth or one-fourth of an inch inside the other. If the material frays or pulls badly, you may want to overcast the cut edges.

55. FREYMAN: Don't you think it's a good rule to do over the hems in ready-made dresses? I find they're generally loosely sewed.

56. JOHNSTONE: Yes . . . I do. And I think it's a good idea to fasten any dangling threads. Just pull them through to the inside and tie them securely.

57. JOHN: Well, Miss Johnstone . . . we've talked about strengthening ready-made things . . . but how about the actual repairing job.

58. FREYMAN: He means mending, Miss Johnstone. And one thing I want to know about is a quick way to put on a good patch . . . if there is such a way.

59. JOHNSTONE: I'd suggest the lapped patch, Mrs. Freyman . . . especially if you consider sturdiness is more important than appearance.

50. JOHN: Could you describe it for us briefly, Miss Johnstone?

51. JOHNSTONE: Well, first cut away all the ragged edges around the tear to make a round hole. Lay a matched piece of cloth underneath and baste it in place. Then use your sewing machine to stitch back and forth over the cut edge until it is firm and secure with no rough edges.

52. FREYMAN: Let's see, it's baste the patch to the underneath side ... and sew it on the right side.

53. JOHNSTONE: That's right. Here's a diagram of how to do it in this booklet on mending. Doesn't it look easy?

54. FREYMAN: It certainly does.

55. JOHNSTONE: After you've stitched the patch on the machine . . . you cut away the extra material on the under side . . . the part that isn't caught in the stitching.

56. FREYMAN: Why couldn't you leave on that extra goods . . . as a kind of extra protection?

57. JOHNSTONE: You can. Just fasten it with tailor's tacks. They hold the material flat and don't show on the right side.

58. FREYMAN: Now I think that woul d make a good patch for mending shirts . . . overalls . . . children's play clothes. . .

59. JOHNSTONE: I'd suggest sheets and dish towels too. And you can hand sew this kind of patch on thick blankets or bath towels.

60. FREYMAN: But you wouldn't recommend it for men's suits or any place where the patch shows?

61. JOHNSTONE: I certainly would recommend it for tweed suits . . . or that kind of salt and pepper material. We've tried this kind of patch on those materials out here in our laboratory . . . and you really have to hunt for the patch ... because it blends in so well.

62. JOHN: Say . . . I've been looking through this booklet, Miss Johnstone. It looks like a pretty complete guide to mending . . . even to me.

63. FREYMAN: I was wondering what was keeping you so quiet, Johnny. What's the name of the booklet, anyway?

64. JOHN: It's called the "ABC's of Mending" and it's a regular U. S. Department of Agriculture publication. Here . . . look it over, Mrs. Freyman.

65. FREYMAN: Mmmm . . . lots of nice diagrams.

66. JOHN: And directions for mending stuff like three-cornered tears . . . snags and small holes. Do you know about these things, Mrs. Freyman?

67. FREYMAN: Well, I've met up with them, Johnny . . . and I'd certainly like to know more about them.

68. JOHN: Why don't we invite Miss Johnstone to visit our CONSUMER TIME program and tell our listeners about the booklet?

69. FREYMAN: Good idea. How about it, Miss Johnstone?

70. JOHNSTONE: I'll be glad to, Mrs. Freyman.

71. FREYMAN: Fine . . . then we'll all meet at the radio station . . . and Miss Johnstone, don't forget to bring a copy of the booklet!

72. MUSIC: BRIDGE

73. JOHN: So that's how Mrs. Freyman and I went about lining up today's CONSUMER TIME broadcast.

74. FREYMAN: And that's how we happened to invite Miss Shirley Johnstone of the U. S. Department of Agriculture to visit us today.

FREYMAN (CONT'D) (POSSIBLE CUT STARTS HERE)

FREYMAN (CON'D) Miss Johnstone . . . before we start talking about mending again . . . may we ask you a few questions about your work out at the Agricultural Research Center?

75. JOHNSTONE: Go right ahead, Mrs. Freyman.

76. JOHN: Well, Miss Johnstone, I for one would like to know a little more about your work. Just what are some of your duties as a clothing specialist?

77. JOHNSTONE: We do research on functional work clothes. That is we develop new types of clothes to fit the job. We also work out buying guides for clothes.

78. FREYMAN: What about these clothing exhibits?

79. JOHNSTONE: Yes . . . that's another phase of our work. We loan our clothing exhibits to the Extension Service so that as many people as possible can get the benefit of them.

80. JOHN: How long have you been a clothing specialist with Agriculture, Miss Johnstone?

81. JOHNSTONE: About a year and a half.

82. FREYMAN: I suppose you majored in home economics in college?

83. JOHNSTONE: Yes . . I did . . . and I also taught vocational home economics before I came here.

84. JOHN: One more question . . . have you ever been on the radio before?

85. JOHNSTONE: No . . . but I did participate in a television fashion show.

86. JOHN: Well . . . she's way ahead of us, isn't she, Mrs. Freyman?

87. FREYMAN: Yes indeed. (POSSIBLE CUT ENDS HERE) But now . . . let's get back to some of the ways to take a stitch in time and make household textiles last longer. I'm particularly interested in how to replace worn blanket binding successfully.

88. JOHNSTONE: Well, just rip off the ragged binding and replace it with a new one. But be sure to shrink the new binding before you use it.

89. FREYMAN: Oh . . . so that's the secret . . . shrink the new binding first. I'll remember that. And now tablecloths. Is there any way to mend them so the mend doesn't show?

90. JOHNSTONE: Indeed there is. If it's a small hole . . . you can make an almost invisible mend with yarns from the same linen . . . even if you have to sacrifice a napkin to get them.

91. JOHN: It would be worth it to save a good tablecloth.

92. JOHNSTONE: A large hole in a tablecloth takes strategy. Try to find some patching material from matching napkin or an old tablecloth that's similar in pattern and weight.

93. FREYMAN: What's the next move?

94. JOHNSTONE: Then if the patch comes in a suitable place . . . work a monogram over it. Choose one large enough to extend beyond the edge of the patch. Then the repair will be almost entirely concealed.

95. FREYMAN: And then it becomes a decoration instead of a blemish.

96. JOHN: Very ingenious.

97. JOHNSTONE: You can find similar hints for repairing other household textiles in the booklet, Mrs. Freyman.

98. FREYMAN: So I've been noticing. There are special mending tips for bath towels, bedspreads . . . hosiery . . . sheets, pillowcases . . .

99. JOHN: And Mrs, Freyman . . . did you notice the diagrams?

100. FREYMAN: Yes . . . there are diagrams of the basic mending stitches and explanations of when to use each one. Then there's a special section which tells how to mend kintted material... I didn't realize there was more than one way.

101. JOHNSTONE: Yes, Mrs. Freyman . . . you can either use the knit-stitch mend . . . or the blanket stitch mend. And there are diagrams for each.

102. FREYMAN: Oh yes . . . here they are on page fifteen.

103. JOHNSTONE: And I think you'll find the diagrams very easy to follow, Mrs. Freyman. We tried to make them as simple as possible.

104. FREYMAN: They look very clear . . . just glamcing over them.

105. JOHN: Say, Mrs. Freyman . . . I should think by this time, our listeners would want to know how they can get a free copy of this booklet.

106. FREYMAN: You'd better tell them, Johnny. But first, I want to thank Miss Shirley Johnstone, clothing specialist of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, for visiting CONSUMER TIME, today. And thank you for giving us the valuable hints on how to take a stitch in time to make clothes and household textiles last longer.

107. JOHN: Now?

108. FREYMAN: Now.

109. JOHN: Friends for your free copy of this U. S. Department of Agriculture bulletin called the "ABC's of Mending". . . just drop a post card to CONSUMER TIME, Washington 25, D. C. . . . and we'll see that you get one. Remember the address . . . it's CONSUMER TIME, Washington 25, D. C. . . . and the name of the booklet again . . . "The ABC's of Mending."

110. MUSIC: BRIDGE

111. FREYMAN: And now Johnny . . . what's on CONSUMER TIME for next week?

112. JOHN: Well, Mrs. Freyman . . . I really think that next week we'd better talk about gardening. A robin is a sure sign, you know . . . and I saw one this morning.

113. FREYMAN: Yes you told me you did, Johnny.

114. JOHN: You know, there's a different gardening story to tell this year.

115. FREYMAN: Well, next week would be the time to tell it.

116. JOHN: Yes, I hope all our friends will be listening to hear how all over the nation gardening is converting to peace time . . . with the accent on nutrition and the improvement of home grounds. So be with us next week for a special gardening program on

117. SOUND: CASH REGISTER

118. ANNCR: CONSUMER TIME

119. SOUND: CASH REGISTER . . . CLOSE DRAWER

120. ANNCR: CONSUMER TIME, written by Eleanor Miller and directed by Frederick Schweikher, is presented by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, through the facilities of the National Broadcasting Company and its affiliated independent stations. It come to you from Washington, D. C.

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